



Massachusetts Employment Report

Joint Economic Committee

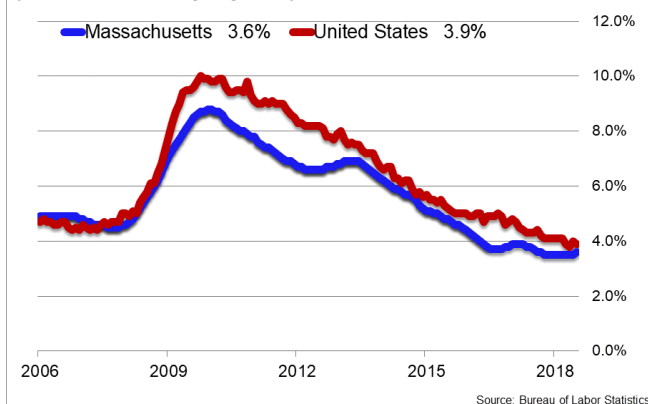
Representative Erik Paulsen, Chairman

August 17, 2018

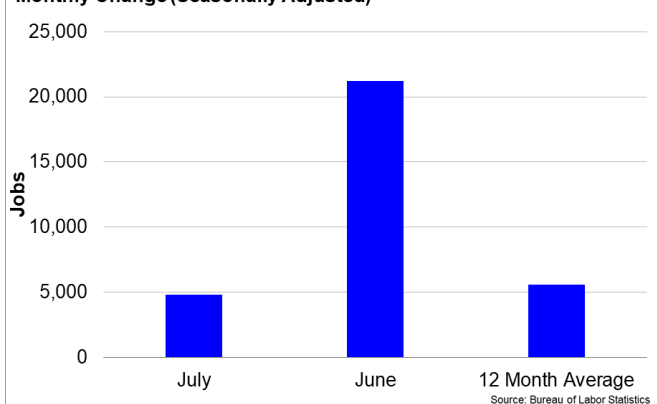
Summary

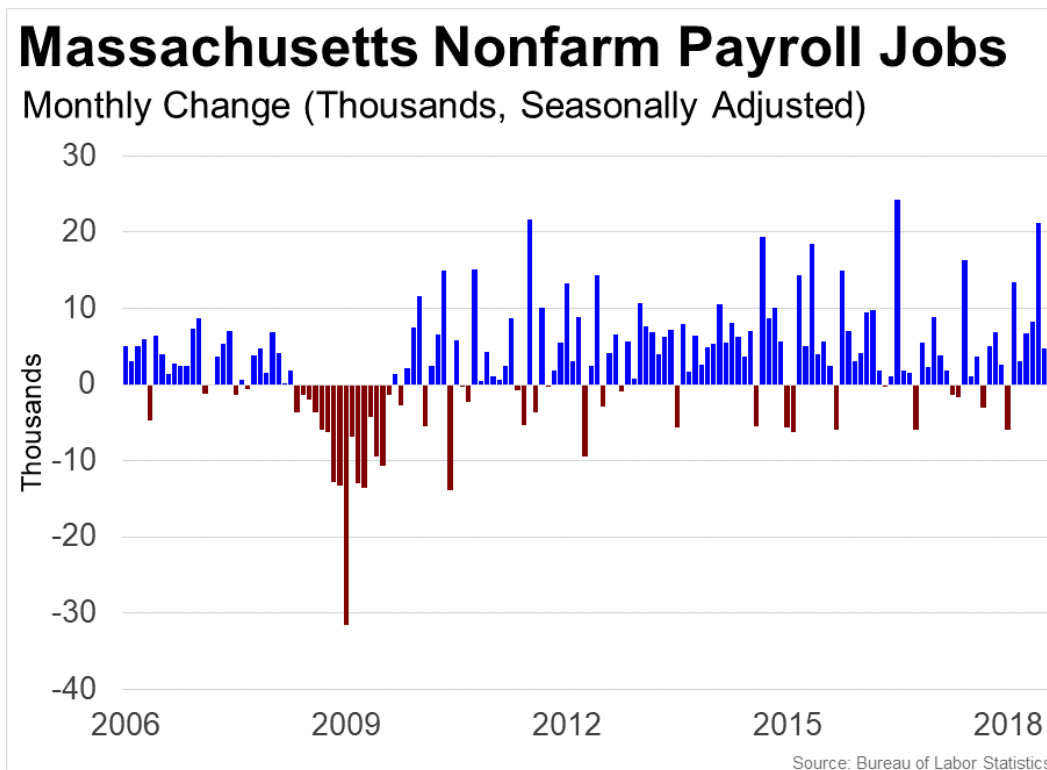
- **Massachusetts added 4,800 jobs and the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.6 percent in July** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Massachusetts added 66,800 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point from 3.7 percent.
- **In July, Massachusetts's private sector added 5,900 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 66,900 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Massachusettsans rose by 2,371 in July**, and over the past year 124,943 Massachusettsans found jobs.
- Massachusetts's **labor force participation rate increased to 67.3 percent** from 66.9 percent in July. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 1.8 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent in July**. State employment and unemployment data for August is scheduled for release on September 21, 2018. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 7, 2018.

Massachusetts and U.S. Unemployment Rates
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Massachusetts Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)





Massachusetts Payroll Employment

Massachusetts added 4,800 jobs, or 0.13 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, Massachusetts added 21,200 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 66,800, or 1.85 percent. Massachusetts nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

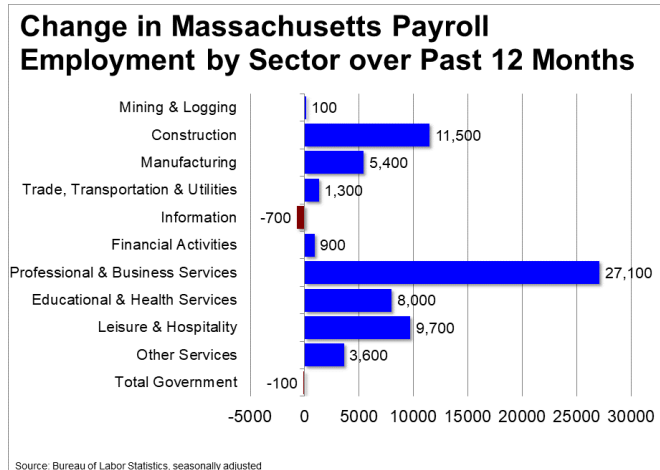
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 157,000 jobs in July, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending July 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,400,000 jobs, or 1.64 percent. Massachusetts ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, Massachusetts's private-sector added 5,900 jobs, or 0.18 percent. The private-sector in Massachusetts added 17,900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 66,900, or 2.12 percent. Massachusetts private-sector payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 170,000 jobs in July, or 0.13 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,392,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.92 percent. Massachusetts ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Educational & Health Services (+2,700) and Professional & Business Services (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-1,900) and Total Government (-1,100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+27,100) and Construction (+11,500). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Information (-700) and Total Government (-100).



Massachusetts Labor Force Statistics

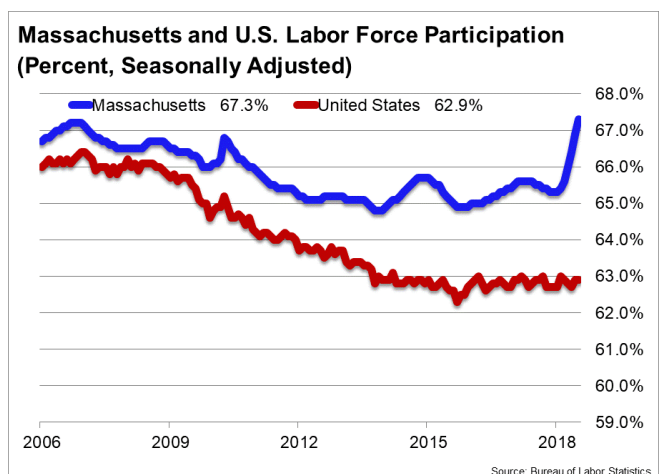
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts rose to 67.3 percent in July from 66.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 have a higher labor force participation rate than Massachusetts. The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts was 67.3 percent in July 2018. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.8 percent in December 2013. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1977 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.9 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Massachusetts civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 64.9



percent in July from 64.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 11 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Massachusetts. The employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts is 1.8 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts was 64.9 percent in July 2018. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts occurred in January 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 58.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.5 percent in July. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

